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April 16, 2002 LB 989, 1149

cessation people out behind the glass. I don't buy it. I'll oppose it. It's just bad business, and it sends the wrong message to our wholesalers, retailers, anyone doing business in the state of Nebraska. We would approach it in this manner. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Hartnett on the Jensen amendment.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, would you respond?

SENATOR HARTNETT: How much...one of your proposals, when you're pushing the cigarette tax up to 50 cents, the business was going...that you would lower the number of smoking...what was the percentage? What is 30 percent? We raised it from...we raised it 30 cents with this...with the bill that we passed, LB 1085 the other day. What will the number be down...what percentage?

SENATOR JENSEN: I think it could...it could lower smoking by seven percent.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Seven percent. See here, what we're doing with this amendment, we're really cutting businesses, their profit because I think as some of the previous speakers say, they have to buy the stamps before they can get their money back. So I think it's just a poor policy. We didn't have a hearing on this, and I think it's just...I think we should just all oppose Jensen's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Jensen, your light is next.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. First of all, when we...when LB 1149 was introduced in the Revenue Committee, this was discussed. And it was part of that discussion of the fiscal note on LB 1149 so, in part, there was a public hearing. Senator Bourne is correct, however, that probably it should have been a bill by itself.